

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending prior to the present amendments.

Claims 1, 4, 10 and 12 are amended to more clearly define the invention by correction of typographical inconsistencies.

Claim 7 is amended to independent form

Claims 13-20 are newly entered claims supported by original claims 1, 3 and 12.

No new matter is entered as a result of the amendments.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Objections To The Specification and Claims

Paragraph [0027] is objected to due to confusing language. The objection is overcome by amendment.

Claims 1, 3, 10 and 12 are objected to for inclusion of improper terms. The objection to each is overcome by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection is overcome by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 12 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention as envisioned by the inventors at the time of filing. No new matter is added as a result of the amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-090178 (hereinafter JP'178) in view of Visioli (US 5,897,901), Lahary et al. (US 5,440,006) and EP 1 018 534.

JP '178 is cited as teaching a glass reinforced composition comprising a polyamide blend of crystalline aromatic polyamide and amorphous or low-crystalline polyamide. JP '178 teaches a single copolymer comprising a dicarboxylic acid portion comprising 30-100% terephthalic, 0-40% aromatic (not-terephthalic) and 0-70% aliphatic. The dicarboxylic acid portion is considered to be 100% and a low crystalline diamine portion is included.

Claim 1 of the present invention describes a mixture of two copolymers with one being a semi-crystalline component (A) comprising a dicarboxylic acid portion comprising 50-80 wt% terephthalic and 20-50% isophthalic with this portion being equally balanced with aliphatic diamine. Component (B) of instant claim 1 comprises an isophthalic rich amorphous (co)polyamide comprising 55-100% isophthalic acid and 0-45% terephthalic acid. As with component (A) the isophthalic rich phase is equally balance with an aliphatic diamine. Component (A) and component (B) are then taken together in a defined ratio with filler to provide a material with unique properties as set forth in the specification.

In summary, JP'178 fails to teach thermal properties like HDT, and not the mechanical properties at elevated temperature (cf. JP'178 [0001]). Also JP'178 fails to mention that the HDT does not play a role for selection of amount ratios in the molding material, since amorphous amount can be very high (5 to 75 wt%). Also the surface quality, another important quantity according to the present invention is not mentioned in JP'178.

Visioli, Lahary et al. and EP 1 018 534 are each cited for their teaching of a property of specific polyamides. None of the cited references, alone or in any combination, recite the combination of specific (co)polyamides with the specific level of filler as set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, there is no teaching which would lead one to such a combination nor is there any suggestion that the improved properties, as set forth in the specification, could be realized from such a combination. Therefore, one of skill in art would only arrive at the unique combination set forth in claim 1 in hindsight and, even then, there would be no motivation to make such a combination since the expected advantages would be nowhere taught in the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-090178 (hereinafter JP'178) in view of Visioli (US 5,897,901), Lahary et al. (US 5,440,006) and EP 1 018 534 is improper and removal is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Claim 7 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

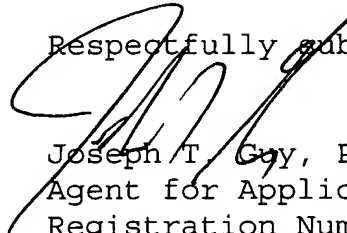
Claim 7 has been amended to independent form with all limitations of the base and intervening claims included therein. All issues related to 35 U.S.C. 112, are also believed to be resolved.

Claims 17-20 are newly entered claims depending on claim 7 and believed to be allowed for, at least, the same reasons as claim 7.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph T. Gay, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicants

Registration Number 35,172

NEXSEN PRUET ADAMS KLEEMEIER LLC

P.O. Box 10648

Greenville, SC 29603

Telephone: 864-370-2211

Facsimile: 864-282-1177

Customer number: 46591

September 20, 2004